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## Hawk's Herald - April 30, 2005

Roger Williams University

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Roger  
Williams  
University

Saturday,  
April 30, 2005  
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THIS  
WEEK



Dave's Clean Up  
page 3

SPORTS



GOOD LUCK CLASS OF 2005!

# THE HAWK'S HERALD

an independent student newspaper

## Sexuality open book on campus

Meghan Rothschild  
Contributing Writer

Walking through the Gabelli School of Business, it's hard not to notice the sexual terminology posted all around you. Phrases such as "My Vagina is Flirty!" or "I Heart the Female Orgasm" cover the walls as forms of advertisement.

Some may find this obvious display of sexuality unacceptable or perhaps even offensive—but not at RWU, or many campuses across the U.S. There is a new surge of empowerment happening, and many are glad to see it. Women are becoming increasingly comfortable with their sexuality. Whether it be sex toy parties or plays centered on the female genitalia, women are speaking out and taking control of

their bodies and their sexual selves.

In high school, women were taught abstinence was the only way. Sex-Ed was focused on embedding fear in anyone who dared to think about involving herself in sexual acts. We were bombarded with the idea that sex would lead to an incurable STD or pregnancy. Either way, it would ruin our lives.

No one ever told us sex could be pleasurable or something that healthy human beings need to experience—until college.

This year alone there have been multiple lectures across campus focusing on women and sex. One such lecture, entitled "I Heart The Female Orgasm," allowed women and men to learn something about sex and how a woman experiences it. CAS 157

was packed that night with many interested college students who wanted to know how they could get more out of sex, either for themselves or their partners.

"I went to the Female Orgasm because it's obviously an interesting topic," said Bryenne Libby, junior communications major. "I'm glad I can be comfortable in that type of situation and I think many women are starting to feel the same."

In addition, a production of *The Vagina Monologues* increased awareness of serious women's issues. Clitoral mutilation was one, among many, of the topics covered by the famous play that is put on annually at RWU. The play covers several areas, including comical reenactments of 17 different types of orgasms.

Although *The Vagina Monologues* has the audience roaring most of the time, it educates women about the rights and the struggles that females still face today.

Amanda Christie, junior marine biology major, has been involved with *The Vagina Monologues* for two years.

"The first time I saw *The Vagina Monologues*, as an audience member, it changed my life," she said. "It made me realize that every woman has a story and it's OK. If these women could get up there and talk about sexuality so freely, then why should I be afraid?" Erin McBurney, an American studies major, has attended *The Vagina Monologues* and feels it's a great experience.

"I was relieved to hear other women talking about subjects that I had

worried about," she said. "I was happy to hear some things are normal and that others have shared similar experiences."

Other women are feeling the same way about expressing themselves sexually. Rachel Berardino, junior psychology major, feels that women should be comfortable with who they are.

"The more we know and talk about sex and our bodies, the better we're going to feel," she said. "I think women are making a transition from being silenced about sex in high school, to being praised for talking about it in college and it's great."

A recent trend hitting campuses is supporting the idea of women empowerment. Sex toy parties have become a

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## Spanning the Globe from Her Desk

Gina Lopardo helps to broaden student's horizons at RWU

Traci Harris  
Contributing Writer

With her warm smile and friendly personality, Gina Lopardo is very open when talking about herself and her position at RWU. Her office shows students that she is fun and friendly. Her desk has little toys on it and the walls are decorated with pictures of other countries. A vase of fresh, pink tulips sit on the edge of her desk.

She has pictures of her nephew and eight-month-old dog Lacy, a pomeranian mixed with pug.

With a smile on her face, Lopardo said of her new puppy, "She is very cute, I wish I could bring her to work with me everyday."

Lopardo has been at RWU for six and a half years. She started out as an assistant to the Vice President for Academic

Affairs, but when RWU began a study abroad program in Rome in 1999, she jumped at the opportunity to become involved. These responsibilities have evolved over the years and it became a full-time position a year and a half ago. She is also currently taking courses at URI to earn her master's degree.

A typical day for Lopardo is a busy one. "I get here at 8:30 a.m. and I'm usually here until around 5 p.m., when I don't have special projects or information meetings or pre-departure orientations going on."

She has appointments with students and answers a lot of e-mails and phone calls each day, as well as being in contact with program providers. She is in charge of going through all the study abroad applications and writing

the acceptance letters.

Lopardo's face is known around campus: she communicates with everyone from Student Life to Academic Affairs. She is proud to have been a part of the RWU team that hosted a delegation of students from the University of Basrah and Baghdad.

Compared to where Lopardo came from, this is not a job she ever expected to have.

"I went to URI and graduated with a major in Italian language and a minor in art history," said the Providence native.

But she has always had a passion for traveling and enjoys sharing her experiences. Of the many foreign countries she has been to, Italy, Greece, Austria, France and England are among her favorites.

But her very favorite locale is Florence, Italy,

because the culture is part of her family's ethnicity, it is a beautiful country and a place she has studied extensively. She has lived in many parts of Rhode Island, but would love to live in Italy for a few years.

Since Lopardo has taken over, the abroad program has really taken

off.

"We have affiliations with eight different study abroad organizations," she said.

A strong advocate of trying new things, Lopardo has never figured out why some students do not go abroad. She tries her hardest to get students interested

by doing presentations at Accepted Students Day, orientation and homecoming. She thinks that students have myths about going away and make up excuses.

"I cannot believe that there aren't more students going abroad," said Lopardo. "I think



Blaine Moffa

Gina Lopardo has been the coordinator of study abroad for a year and a half.





Chris Villano  
Contributing Writer

I'm not big on details and deadlines, but I'm pretty sure this is my last column. Over the course of the school year, I've divulged very personal and often incriminating information about myself—mostly to people I don't even know. Why? Because it was funny and because I wanted "Joe College Kid" to have something in the paper to which he could read and relate.

However, there has been one particular incident I kept secret for the past month or so. Even now I hesitate to begin writing it, but at this point, I just feel obligated to tell it.

**Me:** "Dude I can't drink tonight, St. Patty's annihilated my liver."

**Ryan:** "It's Friday night, besides, I just heard about this stuff called 'The Monster' and I think we gotta try it."

**Me:** "What's the monster?" (As the usual suspects begin to crowd around the living room in anticipation.)

**Ryan:** "You take 60 cans of beer, a handle of vodka, a carton of sherbet, and three lemonade concentrate cans, mix them together and then drink it."

**Random roommate:** "So like a pseudo-jungle juice thing?"

**Ryan:** "Yeah, but this stuff supposedly turns you into a monster!"

So whatever, I'm sold and so are the rest of the guys. We had some girls from Providence College coming over that night, so the idea of a jungle juice seemed to fit per-

fectly.

Not only did the entire concoction fit perfectly into our five-gallon Poland Spring water cooler, but there was plenty to go around all night. You know when you are sitting around a room with a bunch of people drinking and talking, and about half an hour in, the mood seamlessly changes and everyone is fully engulfed in ravenous conversation to the point they are practically screaming at one another? Well, I always like to make a mental note in my mind as that happens, you know, sit back and take a look around. But on this particular night, I noticed something was a bit off. One of the girls was basically crying in the corner. Apparently, she became so inebriated she had convinced herself that her brother died. And thus, The Monster begins to rear its ugly head.

The general aura in the house had changed so drastically because of this freak occurrence that we could no longer keep the party going. In the hopes of keeping our buzz alive, most of the guys and I opted to head down to a local bar and meet up with our friend and her sisters. I mention the sisters for one reason: Does anyone remember last semester when I wrote, "I can go down to any bar around my house with a used napkin that says something like 'I is 21' and get served, no questions asked?" Well, just to back up my statement, that night I found myself sitting at a bar in Providence drinking with a 13-year-old girl. I've always been an advocate for underage drinking. If you're old enough to go to war, you're old enough to drink. But, I'm sorry, 13-year-olds should be

reading Harry Potter or at the very worst, discovering their first porn magazine.

By the time the bar closed and we were headed down the street to an after-party, The Monster had taken full affect. Somehow amidst the harmless vandalism and constant shouts of "HANGIN' OUT WITH THE GUYS" I failed to notice how absolutely absurd we were all behaving. Ironically, just like monsters!

I'm going to stop beating around the bush now and just tell the story. We made it 95 percent of the way to our destination; when, for some reason, my roommate and I decided to verbally offend an officer of the law. It may or may not have involved one of the five fingers, and included, but was not limited to, a remark about swine. When the cops came back to confront us, my friend made the right choice and ran while I stubbornly continued to walk down the street.

Now, you need to understand I'm in a law and ethics class and one of the only things I seem to have retained are the protections of the first amendment. It's not against the law to do what I did, but as I've said before, "This is Rhode Island, it might as well be another country."

I suddenly found myself thrust into the side of the cop car, hands behind my back in the process of being cuffed. Apparently, cops don't need to go to college and take mandatory law classes where they learn about "freedom of expression." Do you remember last week when I mentioned how good of a friend Ryan Evans is? Well, in the split second I was being apprehended, two knights in glassy-eyed, intoxicated armor came to my rescue. It was Ryan and "John" and they demanded to know what was going on, as they had not witnessed my previous acts of disrespect.

Thanks to their incessant questioning and distraction, I was able to weasel my way out of the officer's grasp. I began to back-peddle and ask why I was being arrested if I didn't break any laws. The cop responded with, "Either you get in the back of the car, or I pepper spray you!"

I stood confused, and in my moment of perplexity, the cop took this opportunity to repay me for my insolence, with a nice chemical burn to the face. In the police academy, officers are taught that pepper spray (or "cap stun" as it was called

in the police report) immediately renders a person helpless and causes them to become immobilized and drop to the ground in agony.

But what this officer failed to realize was that I was no person, I was a monster. My Fight or Flight mechanism kicked in as soon as the spray hit my face. I ran right out of my shoes as fast and as far away from those cops as I could get.

I imagine myself running like Forrest Gump, in full sprint with only one thing on my mind: "run home." I returned to my apartment moments later to learn that Ryan and James had been arrested and taken to the police station. But in that moment, everything else was of little concern to me, because I was in agonizing pain.

If you've never been pepper sprayed before I'll do my best to describe it for you. It's like being lit on fire. And of course, I did the worst thing possible. I jumped into the shower and quickly learned that in combination with pepper spray, water becomes gasoline, fueling the fire. With the help of Pete and a line from the movie Fight Club ("use milk to neutralize the burn") I eventually quelled the sweltering blaze conflagrating my face within an hour. So yes, the mental image you have right now of me, lying on the bathroom floor, dumping a gallon of milk directly into my open eyes, is accurate.

This seems like a nice place to wrap it all up, but no, it gets worse. Exhausted, I went to sleep around 3:30 a.m. completely drained from the night's experience. Just as I was about to reach REM, I was awoken by a noise in my room.

Utilizing the information received from Ryan and James (where they live) the cops decided to act out a real life version of "CSI: Providence," and hunt me down. The first thing that popped into my mind when I realized the cops were rummaging through my room in the dark was, "OK, just jump out the window." But then I remembered, I'm about 40-feet high so that idea was, well, out the window. I don't know why, but I sat up in my bed to see exactly what they were doing. I thought maybe they were going to plant some crack in my dresser and send me to jail for 20 years. When they saw me sit up, one cop asked, "Have you been pep-

per sprayed tonight?" Cautious, I responded with, "Uhh, yeah."

MORON! What I should have done was ask to see a warrant, these cops had just busted in the house uninvited, and that's so illegal! In true redneck fashion I was escorted out of the house in whatever it was I was sleeping in, handcuffed and hung over, on my way to jail. Damn, that sounds bad!

Think about the worst and most boring class you've had in college. Now imagine your professor starts class off by saying, "I'm going to let you out early today," but then never does. You just keep sitting there all antsy, like, "Is it now, is it now, is it now?" That's what my experience in jail was like, only remove any window, chairs, other people, mind-numbing lectures and the opportunity to doodle. Replace it with a 5x5 cell with no windows, a tiny bench (which was occupied by my cellmate Gerald, who was in there for "beating the f\*\*\* out this chick, man, hoe done had it coming to her"), a silver toilet thing and the ceaseless yelling of random comments and requests for toilet paper by all the other freaks in the adjacent cells. To put it simply, jail sucked. Ten hours of pure hell, oh-please-god-never-put-me-in-the-situation-again-where-another-man-has-to-relieve-himself-in-front-of-me.

I was under the impression we'd be let out around 8 a.m. (I remembered calling the police station that night to find out when we could bail out Ryan and "John," "Not until 8"). But, because of a Providence City mix up (surprise, surprise), we found ourselves waiting around until 3 p.m. It was brutal; luckily we were able to post the \$50 bail, unlike some of the poor bastards in there, who were getting themselves sent to "the ACI" (or "the adult correctional institute").

They weren't your typical barred cells either. They were like insane asylum padded rooms. The only way to look out of your cell was through a knee-high mailbox-style slot in the door. This was used to provide the inmates with cold McDonald's hamburgers and tiny McDonald's apple juice boxes, which boasted the charitable donations made each year by the Ronald McDonald Foundation (a paragraph I must have read 400 times).

I would eventually find myself sitting by the door like

a caged animal, staring out of the food slot. And just as I felt ready to burst with anxiousness, a set of eyes appeared in the slot in the cell across from me. They were "John's," and in the moment I first noticed them I felt as though I were seeing the reflection of my own. The eyes of a little boy left alone for the first time at pre-school or daycare, confused and lonely. But this would only last for a split second, because the realization that these were the eyes of a friend, someone who had been going through the same trauma as me, brought instant relief. It seems like a small bit of condolence, but at the time, it was massive.

By the time we were released, The Monster within us had left and been replaced with the uncertainty and bewilderment of a child. It would take us a few days to finally recover from the traumatic experience, which left us facing misdemeanor charges and a court date. Although nothing serious came from these charges (no criminal record or probation or anything) the impact they had on our psyche will never go away. The experience changed us, and I hate to admit it, but it made us better men. I can honestly say, I am never going back to jail—ever!

The backlash of the experience is what ultimately forced us to make the decision to move back to campus for senior year. I remember feeling a great sense of freedom at the beginning of the year when we first moved away from RWU and into the city. But now, I just feel disconnected from all the people and places I worked so hard to get to know. I miss the campus more than ever now, and although the Providence-living experiment was a life-altering event, I want to go home.

So that's the story of my arrest. Does anyone else find it ironic that I end the year with a traumatic tale involving me on the wrong side of the law? I bet everyone saw it coming, huh? Anyway, thanks for reading this year and maybe I'll be back next year with something like, "From Bayside, With Love."

As if this weren't long enough, I'd like to leave with a quote from a Third Eye Blind song. "It's times like these that I dread, when there's everything to say, but nothing left to be said."

## Herald Staff

Editor: Blaine Moffa  
Managing Editor: Allisyn Deyo  
Sports Editor: Timothy Mannion

### Contributors:

Chris Villano, Meghan Rothschild, Ashley Gingerella, Christopher Parish, James O'Connor, Steve Annear, Danielle Ameden, Kaitlin Curran, Alexander DaLuz, Traci Harris

To contact the Hawk's Herald, email us at [hawksherald@yahoo.com](mailto:hawksherald@yahoo.com) or call x3229.

**The Hawk's Herald would like to congratulate Timothy Mannion on being named Editor for the 2005-2006 Herald. Good Luck Tim!**

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## Lopardo

(cont'd. from page 1)

everyone should take advantage of this opportunity if they can."

Tim Kennedy, junior, recently came back from London, and he also thinks that many students should go abroad.

"Oh, definitely, everyone should go abroad. It's an amazing experience, you can meet all different kinds

of people, and go outside the norm."

"I loved it, I want to go back, I did not want to leave," said Erin McBurney, junior, of her Ireland trip during winter intersession. "It was a drastic experience of independence, but it was great being able to travel to other countries."

"Going abroad puts a different light on studying, it is being able to observe differ-

ent cultures first hand," Lopardo said of one of the reasons students should go abroad. "Students grow in ways that they can't comprehend until they go."

"It was awesome; it made me open my eyes a lot. Seeing how people viewed Americans was different," Kennedy said.

Lopardo agrees. "It is important to be responsible when you are there, not everyone loves Americans. Students need

to represent America in a positive way. Use your senses whatever you do, especially when drinking."

A common worry about going abroad is that it may not be safe enough. Not only does Lopardo think that it is, she knows so from firsthand experience.

The past two years she has traveled with students for orientation in Italy. "Break the idea in your head that it is not safe," she said.

Another issue that students face when going to a non-English speaking country is the language barrier.

"There are language barriers, but we make sure that all the classes are taught in English unless the program is a language immersion one," said Lopardo.

Lopardo is helpful and cares about each student that she encounters.

"She was very informative about all

the programs, and helped me figure out what program I wanted," said Kennedy.

Lopardo wants to leave students with the thought that they have many choices to think about when going abroad.

"Research your options to find out what will work best for you. But definitely make a plan to study overseas. It's an experience you won't forget."

# Picking Up Trash For No Cash

## One RWU student works to keep campus clean

Steve Annear  
Contributing Writer

He's no Captain Planet, but Dave Smith is doing what he can to keep the University clean and preserved.

On a damp and wind-struck Sunday afternoon, Smith, a junior, walked along the path that leads to the dock behind Bayside Apartments. At the bottom of the hill, he moved toward a pickup truck that was piled with trash bags, bulging to the brim. Earlier that morning, Smith and his group, "The Preservation of Nature Coalition," had collected over 15 bags of debris and garbage that plagued the waters and grasslands.

Almost every Sunday at 1:30 p.m., Smith gathers friends, roommates and an abundance of other volunteers to meet in Bayside before guiding them to the shoreline to rid the school's beautiful surroundings of excess litter.

"Honestly, each time there's been about 10 people involved," said Smith of his project. "The most miraculous thing is that each time we get more and more garbage. The first week we filled an entire dumpster with about 16 bags of trash. This weekend we managed to pile a whole mound of garbage bags in the back of a pickup."

A native of South Windsor, Conn., Smith has been adamant his whole life about maintaining a pristine environment for everyone to enjoy. His mellow personality and extravagant hippy-like hair go hand in hand with his dedication to main-

taining a clean environment. Often seen playing his guitar along the walls of Bayside, Smith has a new message for the University that he wants to be heard.

"It's so beautiful around this campus, and something needs to be done about it," said Smith. "I want people to see the beauty of this campus and just about the earth in general. There's a mess and we need to clean it up so we can enjoy it."

The University has aided Smith in his project, which he started solely out of his own interest, by supplying trash bags, gloves, poking sticks and a pickup truck to transport the trash. President Nirschel guided Smith towards Scott Yonan, special assistant to the President. Yonan has helped Smith, and crew, throughout the weekly process.

Along with the University's help, Smith has been assisted by friends and students to take charge with the Preservation of Nature Coalition (PNC).

Students Michael Moody, Ryan Lunde, and Josh Payne have been down at the dock with Dave on these Sunday afternoons to help Smith achieve his ultimate goal of ridding the shoreline of the immense garbage buildup.

"I started helping Dave because he's my roommate and he's so into this project, so I backed him up on it," said Josh Payne, a junior architect major. "It's not fun looking at a dump site, especially for four years, and if we can



Steve Annear

Dave Smith (second from right) and his clean up crew collect trash at the shoreline.

get it cleaned up, it's something everyone can enjoy when the weather gets nice."

This is just the first step in a much larger plan Smith has for the PNC. Once the group can successfully organize a large enough mass of volunteers, Smith looks forward to improving other aspects of the University's environment. Such ambitions include stopping the overflow of dumpsters around campus, replacing Styrofoam supplies with products made of corn material and starting a University-wide recycling system.

"There is so much to be done, but we are just starting off small. I really want recycling on campus, and the dumpsters are overflowing too much, trash is flying everywhere," Smith said as his eyes

widened with excitement. "I also suggested that we should use environmentally-friendly Styrofoam. I spoke with the people in charge of food services here, and they told me we could look at reasonable prices to change the type of Styrofoam we use here on campus."

In an effort to promote recycling, Smith has conjured up the idea to obtain used oil drums and have students participate in decorating them with artwork and inspirational slogans. Smith hopes to place the drums around campus so that students and faculty will make proper use of them. Smith smiled, stating that once people got used to the idea of recycling around campus, it would become a regular part of their life.

Payne is grasping the idea that once the project

has doubled in size the school will recognize its success and help make it an official club. Payne hopes once this is accomplished, RWU will give it sufficient funding to help PNC's future projects expand and flourish.

"If you get three new people a week, and they tell a few of their friends, and they tell some of their friends, it's like a chain reaction," Payne said, making an imaginary globe with his hands. "Hopefully we can get as many people as possible and have the natural shoreline looking beautiful again."

The Preservation of Nature Coalition welcomes new volunteers to join them every Sunday by the dock behind Bayside Apartments, to become part of something that has a great potential

for expansion. Smith and other members feel that once students and faculty recognize the litter problem at the University, everyone can take part in becoming part of the solution.

"Whatever you feel you want to do there is no obstacles in the way. Obstacles are just illusions, you can't let things get in the way of your goals," Smith stated, while walking along the back roads of Bayside holding a meeting sign in his hands.

"I know everybody is busy with other things, I'm busy myself. But if everyone takes one less hour, or ten less minutes typing on the Internet, or sitting on the couch and do their part, then we can accomplish so much on campus."



# Annear: unique, poetic and lyrical

Danielle Ameden  
Contributing Writer

It's 10:30 p.m. on Thirsty Thursday and he's got the crowd whooping and hooting while he's jamming away. It's time for, what he described in his away message as, "kid gimmick spittin' on the mic." Steve Annear, the self-dubbed spitter, is standing center stage and basking in the limelight.

He starts "freestyling" lyrics, clearly in his element. "You're awesome! I love it!" someone in the audience bellows between verses.

Tonight, Annear's a hip-hopping slam poet performing at an Expression Session on campus. Tomorrow morning, he'll be grappling with nutgraphs and commas in the classroom, learning to be a journalist.

A junior at RWU, Annear has fallen into his niche—wedging hip hop and slam poetry between creative writing and journalism. This kid's got a way with words and gravitates toward areas where he can use his creative pen.

Once Annear, 21, came

to RWU's Bristol, R.I., campus, he knew he had found his school.

"[The campus] was so amazing. I wanted to get out of Boston, but still be able to travel home whenever I felt I wanted to, so it was really a perfect school to be at."

While finding the school was easy, Annear had to think a little longer about a course of study. He had always loved creative writing and the art of telling stories, but by sophomore year, Annear decided that communications would be a more practical, "stable" choice for working world employment.

"I had taken journalism courses in high school and loved them so I went with it."

He declared, and is now on the journalism track toward a bachelor's in communications, with a minor in creative writing.

"Sometimes," Annear admits, "I feel like I'm wasting my time at school, and if I had more free time to go out and play little shows and hand out demos, I'd be

more satisfied."

While splitting school to pursue a musical career is tempting, he's content with "going through the motions," of getting an education.

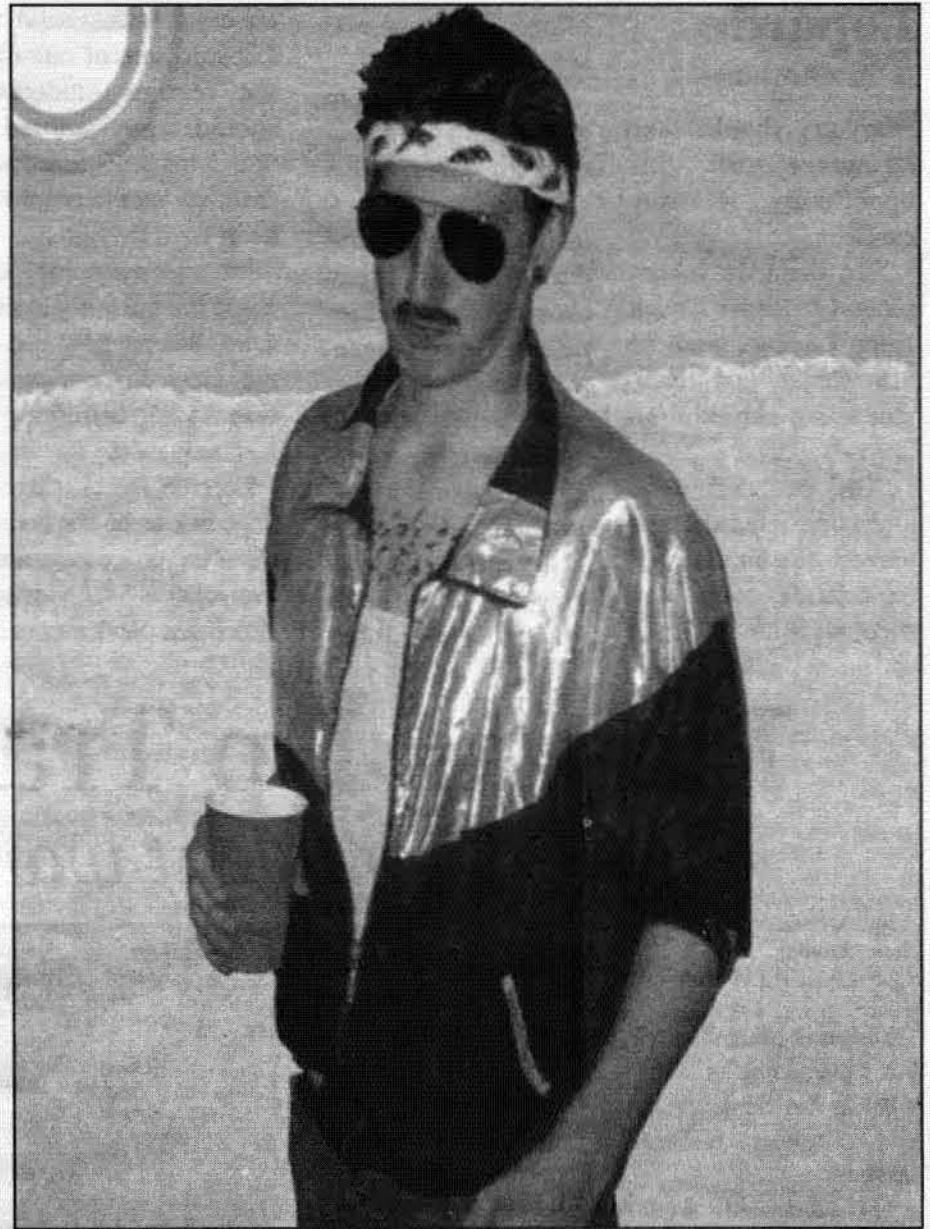
His says his family would back him regardless of the path he chose.

"If I wanted to drop out [of school] and invest all my time in something silly, my parents wouldn't give me money to do it, but they'd support me with it."

Annear was raised in Arlington, Mass., on the outskirts of Boston. He's "exceptionally close" with his only sibling, a brother, who's three years his senior.

"We hang out all the time, I turn to him for everything," Annear said. While both are very creative and artistic, [Steve] felt he needed to get out from "the shadow" of his brother, an animator, so he began to focus on writing.

This passion for writing is apparent in the lyrics he pens: they're original, eloquent, and autobiographical streams of prose. One set begins like this: "I need some



Steve Annear poses for his former Facebook picture.

sort of inspiration/to expand my mind out of this societal explanation/some sort of tension release session/to stimulate my hip hop infatuation/an expansion from the collaboration of scientific calculations."

"I like the fact that I get words off my mind and onto paper," Annear said, "and I express what I'm

feeling or what my opinions are through rhyming. I feel like I get a huge hunk of something bothering me off my back." He finds inspiration in rapper Sage Francis, whose lyrics, according to Annear, are "really geared toward opening your mind."

With his baseball cap tipped sideways, Annear

starts with the hip-hop sound effects; pop, snap, schwoo, he waves his hands wildly and bounds—surprisingly fluidly—across the stage.

People in the audience were chortling. "That's all you got gimmick?" someone shouted. They wanted more.

## RWU's Relay supports cancer research

Kaitlin Curran  
Contributing Writer

"Good Times, Good Cause"—a motto that sums up an important event.

This spring marks the third annual Relay for Life at RWU, and it is the largest fundraiser held on campus. The event is sponsored by Delta Sigma Pi, the professional business fraternity which has been planning the event for the past three years.

Bridget Rosicot, Motria Rudko and Kristin Ford, all juniors, are the event co-chairs.

"We were appointed last year through Delta Sig to plan this event. It was new to all of us, our first event. This is our second year and with one under our belt, we are more experienced

and couldn't be more excited for this year," said Rosicot, vice president of pledge education.

Relay for Life is an overnight event that raises money for research programs for the American Cancer

Society (ACS). It starts Saturday, April 30, at 6:00 p.m., and ends Sunday, May 1, at 12 p.m. Teams of people take turns walking laps in the Field House of the Rec Center, trying to keep at least one person from the team walking at all times. There are games, music and food

provided to the participants to keep them entertained. A luminary ceremony is performed during the evening, where bags are lit in memory of survivors, victims and those currently fighting cancer.

"The cause is person-

al for most of our participants and the emotional connection is evident throughout the night," adds Rosicot. The event takes a lot of preparation and Rosicot, Rudko and Ford have their hands full in the upcoming weeks. To gather teams, they sent out campus

wide e-mails and set up a table in the Student Union. Because it is a non-profit event, the entertainment and food must be donated. The entertainment committee is responsible for recruiting local bands, DJs and karaoke, as well as providing games such as volleyball and ping pong. They are still working to recruit bands, but last year the majority of bands were RWU students. The food committee is in charge of contacting local businesses, like Bristol House of Pizza and Domino's, to

donate food. With an anticipated 200 participants, there needs to be plenty of food and entertainment for everyone.

Last year 14 teams with 112 total team members participated in the event. The event raised \$12,359, exceed-

ing the goal of \$10,000, and 125 luminaries were lit in the ceremony.

This year, the organizer's goals have increased. They hope to raise \$20,000 with 200 team members broken into 22 teams. They also hope to recruit at least five cancer survivors who will walk the first

lap of the event. John Notte, a professor at the Providence campus, will be among them. The luminary goal has also increased to 500. One of the top fundraising teams is the on-campus club, Future Teachers of America, with a total of \$985. Vanna Tremblay, co-president of Camp FTOA, said, "I believe that Relay for Life is one way people can make a big difference in the ongoing battle against cancer. It allows students to not only raise funds, but the event also unites and inspires students. I am proud to attend a school which participates in this heart-touching, life changing event."

***"The cause is personal for most of our participants and the emotional connection is evident throughout the night."***



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## Sexuality

(cont'd. from page 1)

not-so-unusual Friday night activity. Stefanie Mazel, sophomore psychology major, recently hosted the all-girl party that educates and aids women with their sexuality.

"I had the party because I had gone to one before and had fun," she said. "I thought it would be a benefit to my friends because they'd

learn something and have a good time."

The parties often take an hour, and allow women to browse causally through vibrators, edible lubricants and different types of shaving cream. Guests are also encouraged to talk about the ups and downs of past sexual experiences.

So, why are women becoming so open about their sex lives? Many believe it's a natural

progression.

"I think women are more likely to talk about their sexuality now than when they were in high school, because they are gaining more experiences and are becoming more comfortable with themselves," said McBurney.

"They want to get advice from others and know that they are not alone in many of their experiences."

## Natural gas tankers raise concerns for Bristol, RWU, Fall River community

James O'Connor  
Contributing Writer

Last September, Marykac Wright, a Bristol resident, got involved in Save Bristol Harbor, a special interest group that focuses on preserving the bay, after hearing Attorney General Patrick Lynch give an inspirational speech on the escalating issue of liquid natural gas (LNG). Energy companies Keyspan and Amerada Hess plan to transport the highly flammable gas in tankers through Mt. Hope Bay, which is directly adjacent to main campus. Some say if the LNG ignited, it would create an explosion equivalent to that of a small nuclear weapon.

Wright, the mother of three, exclaimed, "I was horrified that this was even being considered in such highly populated areas!"

Shortly after joining the Save Bristol Harbor group, Wright and others formed a new group dedicated to fighting the LNG plans, called Rhode Island for Safe Energy.

"I'm not some kind of alarmist, but it is a scary thing to have such a potential disaster so close to your home," says Wright.

RWU President Roy J. Nirschel recently wrote a letter to the federal government, officially opposing the energy company's plans. Nirschel was the only Rhode Island college president to write such a letter that went to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, otherwise

known as FERC. In his letter, he stated that, "LNG tanker travel in both Narragansett Bay and Mount Hope Bay would place the students, faculty and staff of Roger Williams University in danger, in the event of an accident."

Rhode Island politicians across the board, along with local communities and special interest groups have all voiced opposition to the proposal. Jeffrey Gillooly, Senior Director of Government & International Relations at RWU, said that "the safety issue is the number one concern. We feel the same as the residents in the East Bay Area in that they [Keyspan] will be moving those types of materials into heavily populated areas and we just want to ensure that these are the most prudent locations for these types of operations."

Rhode Island Governor Donald Carcieri also wrote to FERC, saying, "In the post-September 11 environment, LNG vessels and terminals plainly are potential targets for terrorist attacks. Although the probabilities of a successful attack are low, the consequences would be devastating to life and property within a substantial area surrounding the target vessel or terminal. There simply is no justification for accepting the known risks associated with LNG import activities in densely populated locations like the City of Providence."

Students at RWU have

gotten involved and taken action. The College Democrats held two events that opposed the LNG proposal.

"We did a panel discussion with Jerry Landay and Ray Gallison (RI State Rep.) who gave an overview of the whole issue. We got about 20 people and a lot of them were asking questions," said Amy Bovine, member of the College Democrats. At the second event, a discussion about private profit vs. public safety, Bovine stated that, "People got really revved up. They were asking what they could do. Some students wanted to get out and hand out fliers throughout Bristol."

Keyspan and Amerada Hess' plans to import the LNG for energy needs raise serious concerns affecting RWU, the Rhode Island community and large parts of the Massachusetts community. Keyspan is focused on a docking site in Providence and Amerada Hess is looking at a site in Fall River. Both sites are located in densely populated areas along shoreline communities. RWU's main campus is located within the blast radius of both LNG tanker routes in the event of an explosion.

Brendan Doherty, Director of Public Safety, met with RI Attorney General Patrick Lynch on the LNG issue. "The security of the students is paramount. We certainly would be a safer community without these ships floating by."

SEE LNG, PAGE 7



Ask Meg & Ash

Meg and Ash,

I've gotten myself in quite a predicament. I was in a class the other morning in CAS, my usual 8 a.m. sleeper. I was feeling a little uneasy and my stomach had been a little upset. To ease the pain I had to let out what you could call a little gas, nothing unusual for the morning. The problem is as I tried to sneak it out and ease my pain, something extra exited my body of both solid and unnatural odor. I think people noticed and some looked over at me. I have not been back to class in a week and a half now and I'm not sure if I should return because of embarrassment. What do I do????

Man Am I Embarrassed

Embarrassed:

Everyone has embarrassing moments such as yours. The best thing to do is to just ignore the situation. If anyone noticed, they probably had their laugh and forgot by now. You said it yourself: it's an 8 a.m. sleeper course—no one was even paying attention. Besides, college students have so much on their minds: partying, drinking and occasionally school—that they easily forget things. And even if they remember, at the absolute worst, you have to go to class and listen to them act like 5-year-olds and make immature jokes. The semester is almost over. Don't let an embarrassing moment ruin your life. Once summer comes and goes, your embarrassing moment will seem like it was lifetimes ago. For the future, excuse yourself to go to the restroom before you let out any gas.

Good Luck!

Meg and Ash,

I'm starting to get worried about heading home for the summer. My parents and I are constantly at it because they never give me enough space. They don't understand that when I'm at school I'm free to come and go as I please, but the minute I get home curfews and constant cell phone calling start. What should I do?

Scared to Go Home

Scared:

We completely understand what you must be going through. Almost every student must be able to relate! There are a few options for you. You could go home and sit down and have a chat with your parents. Tell them exactly what you told us, but in a calm and polite manner. Respect them. They're your parents and the only reason they do these things is because they worry. Tell them you need your space because you're getting older, but make a compromise with them. Tell them you'll be home on time if they stop calling you constantly. The second choice you have is to look for a job elsewhere for the summer. It's a bit extreme but if you could find a day camp to work at or something, you could visit on weekends, but be away during the week. Whatever you do, make sure you don't lose a relationship with your parents. Life is too short.

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## LNG

(cont'd. from page 6)

Currently, there are no security measures in the case of an LNG explosion, but when and if the time comes where LNG shipments become a reality, Doherty says, "I will be sitting down with the president and the vice president to come up with the appropriate plan of action."

It has been decided that for these ships to travel to their docking sites, protection must be offered by an escort of the State Police Marine Watercraft and Environmental Police Boats along with Coast Guard Cutters mounted with M-16 rifles. To further reduce risk of an attack, state will be required to perform routine closures of major traffic arteries in Rhode Island, such as the Newport/Pell Bridge, I95 in Providence and RWU's very own Mt. Hope Bridge.

Gillooly addressed what he calls "a major inconvenience" to the University if in fact the proposed sites are cleared for LNG shipments and the bridges must be shut down. Shipments are currently estimated to be delivered by the tankers every four to five days, once at the Providence site and once at the Fall River site. This totals a potential number of four times a week in which the Mount Hope Bridge would be routinely closing for arrivals and departures of the LNG tankers. The operation of the University would be affected because countless numbers of students who live in the Baypoint dorms, along with further students, faculty and staff members living independently on the other side of the bridge, would not be able to cross in the case of a passing LNG tanker. Regulations have not yet been specified as to the opening and closing of bridges, but the current estimate of the time frame will be between 20 to 30 minutes.

A very shocking statistic about the passage of the LNG tankers under the Mount Hope Bridge is that "it is estimated to clear the bridge by merely five feet!"

exclaims Jerry Landay, retired journalist and a board member on Save Bristol Harbor. Gillooly commented that, "I'm no shipping expert but that sounds a little too close for comfort."

Along with major arteries of vehicular traffic being shut down in the event of a militarily-escorted LNG tanker, nearly all of the bay's marina traffic will be halted. With exclusionary safety zones up to two miles from the bow and one mile off the stern, and three thousand feet to each side, activities of recreational boating will be stopped, including any of RWU's sailing team events or practices. Also, the closing of marina activities in the bay will "severely interfere with and disrupt the industry" of Rhode Island's vital marine fishing, as stated in a report submitted from Attorney General Lynch's office.

Another concern to the RWU community is Keyspan's proposed docking site in Providence in relation to the University's Beverly St. metro campus location. Currently, there is an existing Keyspan LNG terminal of a smaller scale used for trucks, but with the new move to ship LNG to this site, Keyspan has proposed an upgrade request to FERC which would allow them to beef up the facilities.

However, many voices have raised concerns, Attorney General Patrick Lynch possibly being the loudest, regarding the lack of safety upgrades that would ensue. Lynch stated in a lengthy legal document that, "Keyspan's attempt to convert a 30-year-old storage tank into a modern LNG terminal... could lead to a catastrophic failure of the tank and subsequent release of the entire LNG contents." Maps depicting a scenario of the breach of the LNG terminal at Keyspan's Providence location clearly include the RWU Providence campus in its "Lower Flammability Limit."

LNG seems to be merely an answer to satisfying a need. A Keyspan spokesperson stated that the plan "is important for Rhode Island's growing energy



needs for both heating and electric generation." LNG, despite its high flammability, is one of the more environmentally sound of the energy fuels. In defense of the voiced safety concerns, the Keyspan spokesperson said, "We take safety and security planning very seriously. Keyspan has been actively working with the U.S. Coast Guard and federal, state and local agencies and officials to prepare detailed security plans."

In Nirschel's letter to FERC, he requested that the "commission work with energy providers to seek other alternatives than the terminal sites in Providence and Fall River." Jerry Landay, a RI for Safe Energy member who actually went to Washington to meet with FERC officials, suggested that an offshore platform terminal, where the tankers would dock, is a preferred alternative. A pipeline would then

transport the LNG underwater to a site on land.

"They should have gone there in the first place. Don't ask me why they didn't!" exclaimed Landay.

FERC has the ultimate authority from the federal government to tell the state government what to do in regards to energy issues like LNG. Investigations are still underway and no decisions have been reached.

"Based on a thorough evaluation, I have concluded that the safety and security risks by the proposed upgrade to the Providence Terminal outweigh the potential energy benefits for the New England region," Governor Carcieri said.

Wright explained that, "We still have some tiny hope that they will deny the proposals but it doesn't look that way. Then we're just going to have to try to fight it."



# She packs a mean punch

Alexander DaLuz  
Contributing Writer

Most coaches are thrilled when their team can string a few wins together. The Roger Williams University women's softball Coach Steve Pappas had the good fortune of watching his Hawks run off 18 consecutive wins.

"One of the best teams ever," pondered Pappas while reflecting on past teams he has managed. "It's too early to tell. Every team is different. We've had two teams make the NCAA tournament behind great pitching and team camaraderie."

Although only time can tell if this team will be the best softball team in school history, they have already rewritten the record books. With their recently snapped 18-game winning streak, the Lady Hawks are the owners of the longest one in school history—in any sport.

This particular team is made up of mostly young up-and-comers, with only two seniors. However, Michelle Picard and Jenn Browne have used their four years' experience, and been essential to the team's success.

"Michelle is one of the leaders," praised Pappas, after Picard conveniently popped in and out of his office, glove on her right

hand, ready to go toss the ball around on her day off.

"She's a four year starter and had something like a 20-game hit streak this season," Pappas said.

Picard, tri-captain, is indisputably the statistical leader for the Lady Hawks. She leads the team in almost every offensive category: bats, hits, homeruns, RBIs, total bases and slugging percentage. In addition to her offensive skills, she is a vacuum at first base, swallowing up, sometimes acrobatically, most balls that are thrown in her direction.

Pappas also offered high praise for starting catcher Jenn Browne.

"I just spoke to the team about Jenn Browne. She is a quiet leader. She is in her fourth year as a player. She was the backup to an all-conference catcher for two years. Her time is now. She has performed above and beyond what the coaching staff and myself expected."

Browne is capitalizing on her time. She is batting around the .400 clip and is third on the team in doubles with 11. She also has the full time duty of catching for the two-headed pitching monster, Laura McAbee, sophomore, and Ronnie Fodor, junior.

McAbee and Fodor have pitched every inning this season for the Hawks and the combination has been effective. Each pitcher has over 55 strikeouts, and a combined earned run average (ERA) of 2.48. Fodor's record is 14-3 and McAbee's is 12-3.

"Fortunately, we have two pitchers that are good enough for seven innings a game," said Pappas of his duo. "Kristin Cerreto is also capable of pitching and I am confident enough to put her in the game if I have to."

Cerreto, junior, second baseman and tri-captain, is probably the quickest member of the team. She is the lead-off hitter and crafty at the plate. She is batting .400 with her slap hitting style. But one shouldn't be fooled—she has deceptive powers.

"Kristin had been bunting and slap hitting for her first few at bats of the day (against Curry College)," explained Pappas. "She has tremendous speed and bat control, so if she places the ball right she will get on base. At this particular at bat I had noticed the outfield was in close on the edge of the grass, so she swung away."

That led to her first homerun of the season, as she rounded the bases

while the outfielders ran back to chase the rolling ball.

The biggest addition to the team has been designated hitter and occasional third baseman, Jen Lyford, freshman. Like Cerreto, she too is a slap hitter. Of her 49 hits, 46 of them are singles. She leads the team in batting average at .471 and on base percentage at .522.

Nikki Houser, sophomore, has been stellar with her power in the clean-up spot. She is batting .425 with 18 doubles and one homerun. Defensively, she has been perfect in right field with a fielding percentage of 1.000.

While the team has some star power, final tri-captain Gina-Marie Mariano explained that it has been a team effort.

"We won 18 hard-fought games in a row, which was unbelievable. It was an amazing atmosphere because every single girl contributed and we couldn't have won that many without each other. We don't really focus on how many games in a row we have won; we focus more on being a team and getting things done."

Mariano has suffered some injuries this season, but when healthy she mans third base.

Three freshmen round



## Sports, My Way

Christopher Parish  
Contributing Writer

out the starting line-up. Ashlyn Couture plays left field, and LeEllen Lewis, who tied for the lead in triples with five, roams center field. Callie Nealon is the starting shortstop and leads the team in assists with 76.

With a plethora of young players, the future is bright for the Lady Hawks. But with only a few games left with the luxury of Michelle Picard in the line-up, now is the time for the team to make a run at winning the CCC tournament and earning a bid to the NCAA tournament.

In order for that to happen, the team must keep improving.

"We need our fielding percentage to be 100 percent," said Mariano. "But we're not machines and errors will happen. It depends on how well we deal with errors and adversity. We need to constantly have our heads in the game and make smart plays. There is no doubt that we have the talent to make it to the NCAA tournament."

Coach Pappas reiterated Mariano's outlook.

"As a coach, when mistakes are made we talk about them publicly," explained Pappas. "Not to chastise the players, but to learn from them. Every team makes physical errors; we just don't want the mental errors. We need to keep working on mistake-free softball. The team that makes the least errors wins games."

This particular team has what it takes to win and has proven that. With the conference tournament nearing, the Lady Hawks must continue their winning ways to solidify their spot as one of the greatest softball teams (or any athletic team) in the history of RWU.

"Overall, I'm very proud of us," commended Mariano. "We need to keep the intensity high, where it is, and keep making smart plays."

In my first sports column for the Herald, I took what I thought were some well-deserved shots at the men's basketball team. The team was in no-man's land at 7-9 and looked to be going nowhere. Play was lackadaisical at best and showed no signs of improvement.

I heard that the majority of the players weren't thrilled with my assessment. Yet not one player approached me to say anything bad about me or my story. Furthermore, I'm happy to finally write that the team proved me wrong. After two gutsy performances in playoff games, an injury-depleted squad held its own and kept the score close in the championship game before finally bowing out to Endicott.

I didn't think they would advance as far as a championship game. But they did, and they played well, and they showed class in not losing their cool when the negative comments started flying. Rather than take out their frustrations in the wrong way, the team turned its season around.

The basketball team should be a model for other sports, especially teams this spring that aren't having the greatest seasons. The baseball team, at 12-26, has solid players, but hasn't been able to find a rhythm. Men's lacrosse started the season slowly, but picked up the pace and improved to 8-7. Women's lacrosse waited awhile for its first win and is now 3-11.

RWU teams are grossly underappreciated, and while I may write at times that their play is weak and their attitudes are sour, let it never be misinterpreted for an assumption that I don't hold these teams in the highest esteem.

Not to mention I'll never be afraid to admit when I'm wrong.

